

JOHN N. BRUCE.

JANUARY 30, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SULLOWAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9520.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9520) granting an increase of pension to John N. Bruce, having considered the same, report:

Soldier enlisted August 14, 1862, and served as sergeant, Company D, Fourteenth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, until December 8, 1863, when promoted as first lieutenant of Company C of same regiment, and as first lieutenant until February 22, 1865, when promoted to be captain of Company E, same regiment, and as captain until July 8, 1865, when honorably discharged.

In his declaration for pension, filed September 26, 1879, he alleged:

At Fishers Hill, Virginia, September 22, 1864, he was injured on left side of head from concussion of a shell, paralyzing the muscles and destroying the hearing of left ear; that October 19, 1864, at battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, he was wounded on top of head by a musket ball, causing concussion of brain, rendering him senseless, and a second ball struck him in left instep. A third ball entered his throat $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to left of median line and 2 inches below the lower jaw, passing inward and upward, fracturing the jaw slightly. It emerged 1 inch to left of median line, just below jaw-bone. About June, 1865, while on duty at Savannah, Ga., his eyesight began to fail him, which he attributed in a great measure to gunshot wound of head and throat and the neuralgic pains resulting therefrom. At Borlesville, Md., about March, 1863, he was attacked by diarrhea, preceded by dyspepsia, and at Washington, D. C., July, 1863, was attacked by intermittent fever.

He is now pensioned at \$12 per month for intermittent fever, chronic diarrhea, piles, gunshot wound of scalp, throat, and left ankle, and resulting neuralgia. His claim for rheumatism, impaired vision, loss of teeth, and double hernia was rejected as not being result of pensioned causes.

The board at Manchester, N. H., March 11, 1896, rated him ten-eightheenths for chronic diarrhea, six-eightheenths for piles, twelve-eightheenths for double inguinal hernia, eight-eightheenths for wound of throat, six-eightheenths for rheumatism, and six-eightheenths for intermittent fever, making thirty-eightheenths for pensioned causes, and eighteen-eightheenths for hernia and rheumatism, which are not accepted as due to service by the Pension Bureau.

There seems to be no good reason why this soldier's claim for increase was not granted to at least \$30 per month at the Pension Bureau.

In addition to the disabilities for which soldier was rated by the examining board, he is suffering from impaired vision, partial deafness, rectal paralysis, and gunshot wound of left ankle, and we therefore recommend the passage of the bill with an amendment striking out of line 6 the words "Bruse, of Manchester, New Hampshire," and inserting the name "Bruce" in lieu thereof.

Also, amend the title of the bill so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to John N. Bruce."